

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-03 EB-07 STR-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NIC-01 ACDA-05 COME-00 NEA-09 /077 W

----- 074600

R 171621Z JAN75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6298

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

/AMEMBASSY WARSAW 2797

USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS TREATMENT OF THE U.S.

USIA FOR IBS, IEE IPS

1. SOVIET PRESS (JANUARY 17) MAINTAINS ITS HEAVY CRITICISM OF THE U.S. BUT PLAYS REACTION TO CANCELLATION OF THE TRADE BILL IN A RELATIVELY LOW KEY.

2. PRESS DOES NOT CARRY STRONGLY WORDED TASS COMMENTARY BY ANATOLIY KRASIKOV (TASS ENGLISH WIRE, JANUARY 16), THUS AVOIDING DIRECT SOVIET COMMENT TO SOVIET READERS. PRAVDA, INSTEAD, OPTS FOR A SECOND ROUND OF REPORTS ABOUT NEGATIVE
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REACTION AMONG U.S. BUSINESS LEADERS TO THE CONGRESSIONAL RESTRICTIONS ON U.S.-SOVIET TRADE. PRAVDA CORRESPONDENT KURDYUMOV, SUMMARIZING N.Y. TIMES INTERVIEWS WITH, AMONG OTHERS, PEPSICO CHAIRMAN KENDALL AND CHASE MANHATTAN BANK PRESIDENT CLAUSON, CITES TIMES CONCLUSION THAT MANY BUSINESS LEADERS FEAR THAT THE "SHORT-SIGHTED IRRESPONSIBLE APPROACH BY CERTAIN CONGRESSIONAL CIRCLES" WILL GIVE POTENTIALLY PROFITABLE USSR TRADE TO EUROPE AND JAPAN. SEPARATE TASS INTERVIEW WITH JOHN CONNOR, HEAD OF SOVIET-AMERICAN TRADE COUNCIL'S MOSCOW OFFICE, CITES HIM AS CALLING "DISCRIMINATORY" PROVISIONS TOWARD THE USSR "IRRESPONSIBLE." CONNOR IS QUOTED AS SAYING HE "WELCOMES" THE SOVIET RESPONSE AND THE USSR'S "FIRM POSITION." HE IS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING MAJORITY OF AMERICAN FIRMS SUPPORT U.S.-SOVIET TRADE AND CONGRESS MUST RECONSIDER THE DISCRIMINATORY PROVISIONS OF THE TRADE BILL.

3. ON OTHER SUBJECTS, PRAVDA PRINTS JOINT STATEMENT OF EUROPEAN CPS CONDEMNING THE PRESIDENT AND U.S. FOR AFFIRMING "READINESS TO START A WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST." PRAVDA ACCOMPANIES THE STATEMENT WITH TASS'S SUMMARY OF A SOVIET AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE DECLARATION PLEDGING THE SOVIET PEOPLE'S CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THIRD WORLD STATES STRIVING TO CREATE THEIR OWN "INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ECONOMIES" AND CONDEMNING "WESTERN IMPERIALIST CIRCLES" FOR PRESSURING "PROGRESSIVE" FORCES IN ARAB AND OTHER THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO EXTRICATE THE WEST FROM ITS ECONOMIC CRISIS. IN SIMILAR VEIN IZVESTIYA COMMENTARY (JANUARY 16 BY G. DEYNICHENKO) ON PREPARATIONS FOR AN OIL PRODUCER-CONSUMER CONFERENCE CONDEMNS U.S. FOR ALLEGED EFFORTS TO EXPLOIT THE ENERGY CRISIS AND THE USE OF "NAKED PRESSURE" IN ITS DIPLOMATIC APPROACH TO RESOLVING THE OIL SHORTAGE.

4. SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA JANUARY 17 CARRIES LONG ARTICLE ON US ECONOMY BY YURI BOBRAKOV, SENIOR ECONOMIST AND SECTION CHIEF OF USA INSTITUTE, ENTITLED "GLOOMY PERSPECTIVES." ARTICLE MAKES NO MENTION OF TRADE BILL BUT DEALS IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL WITH ORIGINS AND CURRENT COURSE OF US ECONOMIC RECESSION. BOBRAKOV QUOTES AT LENGTH FROM PESSIMISTIC ANALYSES AND FORECASTS BY VARIOUS US ECONOMIC ANALYSTS, NOTES THAT US ECONOMY NOW PLAUGED BY "TANDEM" DIFFICULTIES OF DEEPENING ECONOMIC RECESSION AND CONTINUALLY RISING IN-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FLATION. US GOVERNMENT, HE WRITES, FINDS IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO SOLVE BOTH AT SAME TIME BECAUSE ECONOMIC REMEDIES FOR ONE MAKE OTHER WORSE, AND VICE VERSA. CONCLUSION: WITH US GOVERNMENT CONVENING ONE CONFERENCE OF ECONOMIC ADVISORS AFTER ANOTHER, TRYING TO FIND SOME EFFECTIVE PROGRAM, SOME WAY OUT, IT IS AN INDISPUTABLE FACT

THAT THE YEAR 1975 WILL BE A DIFFICULT ONE FOR THE USA AND
FOR THE ENTIRE CAPITALIST WORLD.

5. PRAVDA COMMENTARY ON THE PRESIDENT'S ECONOMIC PROGRAM
SAYS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S NEW MEASURES WILL ADVERSELY
AFFECT PROGRAMS HELPING THE NEEDY AND WILL PUT THE BURDEN
OF RECESSION ON THE WORKERS. BY CONTRAST, PRAVDA SAYS, THE
MONOPOLIES WILL PROFIT (E.G. THE AUTO COMPANIES FROM THE
DELAY IN EMISSION STANDARDS) AND THE PENTAGON IS ASKING FOR
RECORD APPROPRIATIONS. MANY AMERICAN EXPERTS, THE COMMENT
CONCLUDES, DOUBT THAT THIS PROGRAM WILL BRING STABILITY TO
THE U.S. ECONOMY.
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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, EXPLOITATION (NATURAL RESOURCES), FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, FOREIGN TRADE, PRESS COMMENTS, TRADE LAW
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW00736
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750019-0917
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750185/aaaagkev.tel
Line Count: 132
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <05 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 970930
Subject: SOVIET PRESS TREATMENT OF THE U.S. USIA FOR IBS, IEE IPS
TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, PFOR, PRAVDA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006